



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968
www.preservation.ri.gov

MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
March 9, 2005

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Mr. Robert Goff
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoozeboom
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, National Register Assistant
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Principal Historian
Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
Mr. Wm. McKenzie Woodward, Architectural Historian
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Special Projects Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Joseph Dias, representing Mr. Frederick Vincent, Acting Director DEM
Dr. James Garman, NR Review Board
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Mr. John O'Brien, Chief of Statewide Planning
Dr. Patrick Malone
Mr. Robert J. McKenna, representing Senator Stephen Alves
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Dr. Daniel Snyder
State Building Commissioner
House Finance Committee

GUESTS

Ms. Tina Regan, Historic Collaborative
Mr. Fred Stachura, Historic Collaborative
Mr. Ken Orenstein, Orenstein Real Estate Services
Mr. Bob Robertson, Barrington Preservation Society
Mr. Jim Litsey, 33 Alfred Drown Road, Barrington
Ms. Elizabeth Warren, Barrington Preservation Society

GUESTS continued:

Mr. Bernard Scolla, Barrington Preservation Society

Mr. Van Edwards, Barrington Preservation Society

II. AGENDA

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 AM, Mr. Williamson, Chairman, presiding.

2. Minutes of February 9, 2005

On a motion by Ms. Hagan, seconded by Mr. Hoogeboom, the Commission VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2005.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported on proposed Separation of Powers legislation that will remove General Assembly appointees from the RIHPHC, add several new members appointed by the Governor, and change the quorum requirement. Copies were distributed.

b) Mr. Sanderson reported that RIHPHC budget hearings had been very positive and that interest in the RI Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit program remains high.

4. National Register Review Board

Final Approval

Alfred Drowne Road Historic District, Barrington

Ms. Kennedy presented information about this historic district that developed between the 1830s and 1940s. Once agricultural, the area became a railroad suburb and later an automobile suburb. Historic properties in the district include two Drowne Family farmhouses and a number of examples of residential architecture dating from the late 19th-century and early 20th-century. This nomination was commissioned by property owners and neighbors in the vicinity of Drowne Road. It is possible that further research may suggest an expansion of the historic district to include surrounding streets.

Mr. Litsey spoke on behalf of 29 homeowners in the neighborhood who support the nomination. Mr. Litsey expressed appreciation to the Barrington Town Council for its support and to members of the Commission staff for their cooperation and assistance.

Following discussion, on a motion by Ms. Hagan, seconded by Mr. Goff, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the nomination.

Centerville Mill, West Warwick

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the nomination. The mill fits within the 1860s to 1909 period of intensive mill development in Rhode Island for the production of bulk cotton textiles. The Centerville Mill is a key component within the larger development of the Pawtuxet River Valley, and it was part of the BB & R. Knight "Fruit of the Loom" textile empire, 1900-1920. The mill workers were predominantly French Canadian. The mill structure itself is a well-preserved rubble stone mill that retains its waterpower turbine and steam power plant. Following discussion, on a motion by Ms. Hagan, seconded by Mr. Hebert, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the nomination

Preliminary Approval

Dunlop Tire/City Tire Building, Allens Avenue, Providence

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the building. Map histories show a building on this site by 1899-1918. In 1913 the State Pier was constructed nearby, and this building was owned in 1924-1925 by the Providence Teaming Company, probably used as a warehouse. In the 1940s City Tire operated an automobile tire recapping factory here in addition to its sales room and warehousing. The building is a complex structure of reinforced concrete and steel skeleton with an exterior brick skin.

During discussion Commissioners noted a need to more fully research the structural significance of the building and to carefully document its National Register significance. Following further discussion, on a motion by Mr. Hebert, seconded by Ms. Hagan, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to preliminary approval.

5. 2005 State Preservation Awards

Mr. Woodward reviewed the awards nominations and staff review process. He recommended the following lists of awards:

Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award

Noreen Drexel

Frederick C. Williamson Professional Service Award

Joe Caffey

Preservation Project Awards

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Wickford
180 George Street, Brown University, Providence
Melrose Neighborhood Revitalization, Providence
Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, Providence
Hotel Providence, Providence
Thames Street Landing, Bristol

Education

Voices and Visions of Village Life, Pawtuxet, Cranston & Warwick
"Diversity Works," Newport

Stewardship

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Newport
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Providence

Following further discussion, on a motion by Mr. Hoogeboom, seconded by Mr. Goff, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the awards.

6. Other Business: There was no other business.
7. Next meeting date: The next regular meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, April 13, 2005.
8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Minutes recorded by,

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director